

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Bay Point Farm (134-5049)

other names/site number Bay Point Dairy Farm (former)  
Obici House (current), Sleepy Hole Golf Course (current)

**2. Location**

street & 1400 Sleepy Hole Road ☐ not for publication  
number \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Suffolk (independent city) ☐ vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county \_\_\_\_\_ code 800 Zip 23434

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☒ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action

\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**U. S. Department of the Interior  
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**Name of Property:** Bay Point Farm  
**Location:** Suffolk, Virginia

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

_____	private
<u>  X  </u>	public—local
_____	public—state
_____	public—Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

<u>  X  </u>	building (s)
<u>     </u>	district
<u>     </u>	site
<u>     </u>	structure
<u>     </u>	object

### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	DOMESTIC	Sub:	single dwelling
	DOMESTIC		secondary structure
	AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE		storage
	AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE		agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	OTHER	Sub:	other
	DOMESTIC		secondary structure
	RECREATION/CULTURE		sports facility
	RECREATION/CULTURE		outdoor recreation

Name of Property: Bay Point Farm  
Location: Suffolk, Virginia

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Italian Renaissance

Other

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### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation BRICK

Roof TERRA COTTA

Walls WOOD: weatherboard

Other

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**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or a grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Name of Property: Bay Point Farm  
Location: Suffolk, Virginia

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Commerce

Period of Significance 1924-1947

Significant Dates 1924—Acquisition of property by Amedeo Obici  
1925—Relocation and expansion of farmhouse  
1947—Death of Amedeo Obici

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
Obici, Amedeo

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

See Continuation Sheet for other Architects

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
previously listed in the National Register  
previously determined eligible by the National Register  
designated a National Historic Landmark  
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #  
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

X State Historic Preservation Office.  
Other State agency  
Federal agency  
Local government  
University  
Other

Name of repository:

Name of Property: Bay Point Farm  
Location: Suffolk, Virginia

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 25

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing		
1	<u>18</u>	<u>364640</u>	<u>4078620</u>	3	<u>18</u>	<u>364900</u>	<u>4078710</u>
2	<u>18</u>	<u>364810</u>	<u>4078760</u>	4	<u>18</u>	<u>364900</u>	<u>4078390</u>

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kimble A. David, Architectural Historian

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ date: 11 December 2002

street & number P. O. Box 7638 telephone 757/623.3456

city or town: Norfolk state: VA zip code: 23509

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	<u>City of Suffolk, Department of Economic Development</u>		
street & number	<u>441 Market Street</u>	telephone	<u>757/923.2016</u>
city or town	<u>Suffolk</u>	state	<u>VA</u> zip code <u>23434</u>

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Bay Point Farm  
Suffolk, Virginia**

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**7. Description**

**Summary Description:**

Bay Point Farm is an irregularly planned Italian Renaissance-style house overlooking the Nansemond River in Suffolk, Virginia. The house and 4 outbuildings are located at the north end of a 263-acre farm. The house is comprised of a central entrance block dating to 1870, which was the original farmhouse on site. The farmhouse was relocated to the bluff overlooking the river and appended to the north and south. These blocks form the primary living spaces in the dwelling. The dwelling is 2-story, wood-frame clad in weatherboard with a hipped terra cotta tile roof. A classical porch articulated with Ionic columns marks the entrance to the dwelling. Window groupings are primarily a simplified Palladian style, and stained-glass windows are found on the west elevation. The interior of the dwelling incorporates a foyer, anteroom, solarium, dining room, living room, kitchen, three lavatories, and second story bedrooms. The floors on the first story are parquet, and classical motifs adorn the woodwork. A screened porch with Ionic columns and tiled floor dominates the west elevation taking advantage of the river view. Adjacent to the dwelling is a two-story garage, with automobile storage on the first story and living quarters for the servants on the second story. Also on site to the north of the dwelling are agricultural outbuildings that supported the former dairy. A brick entrance gate marks the entrance to the dwelling, and a non-contributing concessions stand is located to the east supporting the property's current use of the site as a golf course.

**Narrative Description**

The house is a two-story, single-family dwelling located on an approximately 260-acre site along the Nansemond River. The house is frame clad in weatherboard with a clay tile, hipped roof. There are classical motifs of the Italian Renaissance style including Palladian windows, Ionic columns and pilasters, and wide dentiled frieze adorning the dwelling. The footprint is an irregularly shaped rectangle. The porch projects from the façade adjacent to a projecting sunroom. The porch incorporates Ionic columns and dentiled cornice.

The foundation is brick with an entrance on the south elevation. The south portion of the basement was used as a wine cellar. There are windows that pierce the walls on the south end only.

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The house has an irregular plan due to the relocation of the original farmhouse, and its use as the core. The 1870 house serves as the hall with stair, anteroom and lavatory. It has a side-gabled roof and serves as a connector between the two appended ends containing bedrooms, dining room, kitchen, and living room. The solarium was appended to the east end of the original 1870 house adjacent to the entrance porch.

The two end blocks were added in 1925 and have hipped roofs. The additions have formed an asymmetrical façade and rear elevation. The façade and rear elevation are marked by asymmetrical porches and window openings that are positioned within their respective block.

The interior of the dwelling has a central hall with stair ascending to the second story. The living room is accessed via the hall and is ornamented with Ionic columns and an ornate mantel flanked by tripartite segmental-arched windows. The dining room has oak wainscoting with an egg and dart motif and ornate mantel. The flooring in the main rooms is patterned oak parquet with variation in staining. The enclosed solarium on the façade has a tiled floor and multi-light casement windows. The kitchen retains its original configuration and tile flooring. Other decorative elements include plaster moldings on the ceilings, brackets within doorframes, and stained-glass windows with tracery in the lavatories and in the stair.

The second story bedrooms have retained their spaces, but light fixtures have been modernized. They also exhibit plaster moldings on the ceilings and have paneled single-leaf doors. There is a door on the second story accessing the roof of the main porch. The lavatories on all stories retain their original 1920s-era fixtures. The house is used currently used as a reception center.

Outbuildings include a historic garage constructed in the same manner and style as the single-family dwelling, a silo, storage building, large farm building, and small shed.

The garage is two-story with a clay-tile hipped roof. It is also frame and two oversized garage doors dominate its north façade. There are double-hung sash windows on the second story, and doors accessing the second story via an exterior stair. The garage served as living quarters for the chauffeur and servants. The garage faces north to the south side of the house at the kitchen end.

The farm buildings retain their original form but have replacement vinyl siding. There is a frame side-gable roof garage with modernized doors. Also remaining on site is a silo. In addition, there is a non-contributing, small side-gable-roof shed constructed to support the golf course.

There is an entrance gate with brick posts surmounted by globe lights to the east of the dwelling at

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the east end of the property. They are brick with recessed panels on each plane. Flanking the entrance posts are cast-concrete lions resting on pedestals. The driveway leads west from the posts and then separates into a circular drive in front of the dwelling. The drive is asphalt-paved and is lined with cast-concrete planters.

There is a non-contributing concessions stand within the circular drive to the east of the house blocking the view between the entrance gate and house. It is metal frame clad in metal siding with a side-gable roof. It was added in the 1970s when the property became the Sleepy Hole Golf Course.



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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Summary Statement of Significance**

Bay Point Farm was the home of Amedeo Obici, the Planters Nut and Chocolate Company founder. Planters Nut and Chocolate Company was the largest manufacturer of peanut snack foods in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Obici was an Italian immigrant and founded the corporation with Mario Peruzzi, another Italian immigrant. The formation of the company in 1906 is a classic American-immigrant success story. Obici arrived in the United States unable to speak English and worked hard to earn funds to bring his mother and siblings to the United States. After settling his family, he continued to develop plans to market the peanut, which he perceived to be a viable investment. Within ten years his corporation, Planter's Nut and Chocolate Company had sales in excess of \$1 million and he had production plants nationwide. Obici's innovations in cleaning and blanching nuts and his marketing savvy catapulted the peanut into the forefront as a common American snack food. While Obici began his corporate journey in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, he moved his main processing operation to Suffolk, Virginia in 1913. He resided in both Scranton and Suffolk until 1924, when he purchased Bay Point Farm. He and his wife, Louise, considered Suffolk their home. Bay Point Farm was conceived and planned by Obici, modeling it after villa found in his native Italy, which he had seen as a child before emigrating and on numerous visits after his success. Obici remained in Suffolk at Bay Point Farm until his death in 1947.

Bay Point Farm meets Criterion B (Person) for its association with Amedeo Obici and Criterion C (Architecture) for its unique style and craftsmanship.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

**Amedeo Obici—before Planters Nut and Chocolate Company**

Amedeo Voltejo Obici was born on July 15, 1877 to Pietro Ludovico and Luigia Carolina Sartor Obici at Contrada del Cristo 7 in Oderzo, Italy, which is located in the Treviso Province. Amedeo's father died when he 7 years old, leaving behind his widow, young Amedeo, another son, and daughter. When Amedeo was 11-1/2 years old, his uncle, Vittorio Sartor, Luigia's brother called for Amedeo to come to the United States, where Sartor had emigrated years earlier. Vittorio had moved to Scranton, Pennsylvania with his wife and two children.<sup>1</sup> Young Amedeo departed LeHavre in March 1889 on an Italian tramp steamer. Unable to speak English, Amedeo has his destination written on a label tied through a buttonhole on his coat.<sup>2</sup>

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The steamer arrived at the Bush Terminal, Brooklyn, New York and Amedeo took the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad to Scranton.<sup>3</sup> The steamer had arrived early in New York and unaware of his nephew's arrival, his uncle failed to come to the train station to retrieve Amedeo. A policeman found him crying at the station and took him to his uncle's house.<sup>4</sup>

For the first three months, Amedeo attended evening classes to learn English and during the day worked for his uncle at the uncle's fruit stand. It is believed that at this point that Amedeo notices the popularity of the peanut as snack food when he saw people eating nuts on the street. He tried to convince his uncle to purchase a roaster so they could sell the nuts as a sideline, but roasters were too expensive. The creative and inventive Amedeo went to a junk yard and purchase a piece of metal and had it rolled into a crude roaster.<sup>5</sup>

Amedeo then worked at a cigar factory and as a bellhop in McCassey hotel for \$1 per week.<sup>6</sup> At 15 years old, Amedeo moved to the neighboring town of Wilkes-Barre to work at a fruit stand for \$6 per month plus board. By 17 years old Amedeo was tending bar for Andrew Lynch who was active in local politics. It was during this time that Amedeo assisted Lynch with the solicitation of other immigrants to vote for candidates that Lynch supported. Working for Lynch, Amedeo earned \$15 per month plus board.<sup>7</sup>

By 1895, Amedeo had saved enough money to bring his family from Italy to the United States. With the remaining savings he also was able to open his own fruit stand and peanut roaster.<sup>8</sup> The work was grueling at 16 hours per day. Amedeo also had to attract attention to his cart and yelled out to the masses. This eventually made him hoarse. He once again used his ingenuity and manufactured a whistle, which he attached to the steam pipe that roasted the nuts. His continuous whistle alerted customers and made his job much easier.<sup>9</sup>

It was at this point that he and his friend, Mario Peruzzi, who he had met while soliciting for Andrew Lynch, became partners in Amedeo's endeavor to market the peanut.

**Amedeo Obici—"The Peanut Specialist"**

Obici had met Mario Peruzzi while working for Andrew Lynch. Lynch had tasked Obici to travel through Luzerne County, Pennsylvania and solicit votes from Italian immigrants. It is during a trip to Hazelton that Obici came upon Peruzzi working for a wholesale grocer.<sup>10</sup>

Mario Peruzzi was about the same age and had also come from the Treviso province in Italy. Peruzzi was born in 1875 and had immigrated to Hazelton with his family in 1894. He married in 1897, and had two children.<sup>11</sup>

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By 1906, Peruzzi was working for C. P. Wentz Company of Scranton as the head of the confectionary department.<sup>12</sup> It was that year that Obici decided the future of his peanut business and with Peruzzi's help the two created a peanut empire, which labeled Obici as "the peanut specialist".<sup>13</sup>

Obici was operating an eating-establishment, which served oyster stew and roasted peanuts in a building on Main Street in Scranton. He convinced Peruzzi to obtain a loan for \$2000 from Wentz so the two could form a corporation that sold peanuts. The company name was "Planters Peanut Company", which was conceived by Peruzzi. Obici liked the name because to him it sounded "important and dignified." They rented a factory for \$25 per month and installed 2 large roasters and some other machinery.<sup>14</sup> Obici was the president and general manager, and Peruzzi was the secretary and head of sales.

The first two years of business saw growth and development. The building in which Obici's eating establishment was located became available for sale and Obici was able to obtain a loan to purchase it. He was able to pay the \$39,000 loan by renting the upper stories and operating his establishment.<sup>15</sup> In 1908 he paid the bank interest on the capital and was able to purchase roasting machines.<sup>16</sup> In addition to the roasting machines, the corporation was formally incorporated under the name, "Planters Nut and Chocolate Company."<sup>17</sup> The name change was born out of the idea of combining chocolate with nuts to manufacture candies.<sup>18</sup>

The company was capitalized at \$50,000 with Obici's share 50% and Peruzzi's share 20%. The intention was to sell 30% in stock.<sup>19</sup> It was anticipated that with Obici's addition of chocolate and his development of a modern roasting and blanching process, which was much more efficient than traditional means, the corporation would be able to pay its stockholders.<sup>20</sup> By 1910, Planters had a profit of \$4,000,000 and in 1912 it paid its first dividend.<sup>21</sup>

To purchase his nuts from the farmers in the south, Obici had to deal with middlemen or commodity speculators. He discovered that these men pilfered a majority of the profits from the nut business. In an effort to maximize his profits, he decided to move his cleaning and processing plants closer to the farms in Suffolk, Virginia, the location of his largest suppliers. In 1913, Obici traveled to Suffolk and purchased a manufacturing facility. He also relocated the manufacturing headquarters to Suffolk.<sup>22</sup> While Suffolk had the manufacturing headquarters, the main offices were still located in Scranton.

By 1916, his Suffolk plant was in full operation and he began to focus on the marketing of his

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peanut products.<sup>23</sup> Obici held a contest in Suffolk directed toward the local schoolchildren to create a logo or trademark to represent the peanut. A 13-year old Suffolk boy, Anthony Gentile, drew a sketch of a “peanut person”, which was selected by Obici to represent the company. Gentile was awarded his \$5 prize and the idea was developed at the Pennsylvania headquarters. A company artist added the top hat, spats, cane, and monocle, which gave “Mr. Peanut” a more dignified look.<sup>24</sup>

Mr. Peanut was used extensively in the marketing of Planters Peanuts. Prior to the creation, Obici was known for creating impromptu parades through the streets of Wilkes-Barre tossing peanuts to small children.<sup>25</sup> With the advent of the Mr. Peanut character, Obici had a universal symbol of his corporation. Mr. Peanuts walked the streets in every major city and a single page cartoon of “Mr. Peanut’s Nutty History” was placed in millions of comic books. In addition, Obici had an electric sign placed in Times Square in New York City illuminated by 6,700 lamps.<sup>26</sup> Obici’s flair for attracting attention to his product had developed from a steam driven whistle to a full marketing campaign.

Obici’s business policies were also evident of his savvy and dedicated nature. His business formula was, “...prices and first profits were not nearly so important as repeat business. Quality, brand name, and creation of consumer demand were far more important to the retailer and his continued success.”<sup>27</sup> In addition to promoting his product by using a recognizable character, he also used modern packaging to attract buyers. Glassine was introduced in the United States in 1904. It was a German export of a clear plastic-type packaging. It allowed the consumer to view the contents of their purchase. Obici found this type of packaging so valuable that he purchased a glassine machine in 1912 to package his nuts. Glassine was replaced in 1932 by the more common cellophane used today.<sup>28</sup>

Planters Nut and Chocolate Company grew dramatically in the 1920s. By 1927, there were two more plants in Suffolk including the construction of a cold storage building that held 600 carloads of peanuts. Planters was manufacturing their own bags, boxes and tins. In 1921 a plant was opened in San Francisco and in 1924 a plant opened in Toronto. Plants to follow in the 1920s and 1930s include Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta, and Memphis. In addition to the expansion, Planters created two subsidiary companies: National Peanut and The Planters Edible Oil Company.<sup>29</sup>

National Peanut was created in 1929 and was comprised of 35 retail stores that operated chiefly to promote Planters peanuts. The Planters Edible Oil Company produced peanut oil from nuts that were undersized or broken. They marketed their products under the names, Hi Hat, Kosher Hi Hat,

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and Ali D'Italia. In addition to the two companies Obici sold unused peanut shells and other miscellaneous products not used in Planters' products so that waste was minimal.<sup>30</sup>

The 1930s were also prosperous for Planters as the United States Department of Agriculture declared peanuts a basic commodity and subsidized peanut production. By 1938, Fortune magazine had presented a spread on Obici and the success of Planters Nut and Chocolate Company. It was crafted as a "rags-to-riches" story of a first generation immigrant.

But with Obici's successes, came devastation with the death of his wife in 1938. He had married Louise Musante in 1916. She passed away while visiting family in Scranton.<sup>31</sup> In a lasting tribute to her, he wanted to create a hospital for the people of Suffolk in her memory. He formed a corporation, which was to begin construction of the facility upon his death. He also donated money for a hospital in his hometown of Oderzo, Italy.<sup>32</sup>

His business continued to grow throughout the 1940s until his death on May 22, 1947. Mario Peruzzi became the head of Planters Nut and Chocolate Company until his sudden death in December 1955. Planters was sold in 1960 to Standard Brands, Inc. for \$20,000,000. Standard merged with Nabisco in 1981 to form Nabisco Brands, Inc. Later merges include Nabisco and R. J. Reynolds, forming RJR Nabisco, which was later purchased by Kraft Foods.<sup>33</sup>

Kraft Foods continues to market Planters nuts with the recognizable "Mr. Peanut", and the peanut operations continue in Suffolk, Virginia. Though no longer under the helm of their creator, they continue to flourish.

**Amedeo Obici—Bay Point Farm**

On December 5, 1924, Obici purchased the Bay Point Farms estate from Leila A. Wagner, who had inherited the estate from her husband. The farm was a portion of the original Sleepy Hole Farm that dominated this area along Nansemond River in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Wagner named his farm and constructed a grouping of buildings at the north end, just east of where the current house is located.<sup>34</sup> Still visible from the Wagner estate is the parallel tree grouping near the north end of the site between the main driveway and the house.

Obici lived on North Saratoga Street in downtown Suffolk after relocating his manufacturing facility to Suffolk in 1913. He also maintained a house in Scranton, where his family lived and Planters' headquarters were located.<sup>35</sup>

After purchasing Bay Point Farm, Obici had the original 1870s farmhouse relocated to the bluff to

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the west of its original location, and used it as the core of his new dwelling. He appended two blocks to the north and south, and reoriented the house to the east to take advantage of the water view over the river.<sup>36</sup> The house was designed in the Italian Renaissance style similar to houses Obici had seen growing up in Italy. It incorporates Ionic columns, tripartite windows and a clay-tile hipped roof.

Obici and his wife decorated the house with Italian art, painting and sculpture that they collected on their numerous trips to Italy. The house has many classical details, including flute columns, brackets and large windows overlooking the water.<sup>37</sup>

Amedeo and Louise Musante Obici married in 1916 before his permanent relocation to Suffolk, Virginia. Amedeo and Louise met while peddling their respective products in Wilkes-Barre. Upon purchasing the house, the Obicis were very generous to the employees of Planters Nut and Chocolate Company. They held events at the estate especially for children, since the couple was unable to have children of their own.<sup>38</sup>

In addition to the grounds, Obici's hobby was dairying. In 1936 he registered the name Bay Point Dairy Farm with the city of Suffolk to distribute milk from his prized herd of Guernsey cows. He also constructed a clubhouse for his employees at the west end of his property on the waterfront for their recreation.<sup>39</sup>

In 1938, Louise Obici died while visiting family in Pennsylvania. Amedeo wanted to create a lasting memorial for her and by 1941 had settled on a hospital. In 1942, he formed a corporation, which was funded by a large endowment presented after Obici's death in 1947.<sup>40</sup>

Amedeo Obici willed Bay Point Farms to Mario Peruzzi who in 1921 married Obici's sister Elisabeth. Mario Peruzzi was tasked in the will to sell the contents of the house, cows, and anything else he wished. Peruzzi sold most of the contents of the house and cows. In addition he sold the rights to the timber on the land to W.H. Sheffield. Sheffield cleared the land of most trees.<sup>41</sup> In addition to the trees, Peruzzi also sold the rights to oyster harvest the marshlands around the property.<sup>42</sup> Peruzzi also sold the clubhouse in 1948 for a nominal fee to the white employees of the Planters Nut and Chocolate Company as a recreation space.<sup>43</sup>

Peruzzi kept the house and main grounds until 1952, when it was deeded to Pern Cowling, Jr. Cowling held the land in trust for \$50,000 with the intention of developing the site.<sup>44</sup> The Bay Point Shores Corporation acquired the site in 1963, who sold it in 1966 to the City of Portsmouth.<sup>45</sup> In the 1970s, the City of Portsmouth developed the site as a golf course and used the house as a

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reception center. It was recently purchased by the City of Suffolk with the intention of restoring it.

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Suffolk, Virginia

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Endnotes:

1. Bernardi, Ulderico, "Veneto-People in the United States of America," Cassolva, Italy: Nico Service, s.p.a.: 1996, 27.
2. Lottick, Sally Teller. "Bridging Change: A Wyoming Valley Sketchbook," 186.
3. LoCascio, Ted. J., "The Obici Story, 1877-1947," unpublished, 1982, 1.
4. Ibid., 2.
5. Bernardi, 28.
6. Ibid.
7. Lottick, 186.
8. Bernardi, 28.
9. Lottick, 186.
10. Ibid.
11. Bernardi, 28.
12. Lottick, 187.
13. Ibid., 188.
14. Cutchins, Allen P., Sr., "Mr. Peanut: The life of Amedeo Obici," unpublished, 2002, 6.
15. Bernardi, 28.
16. Cutchins, 7.
17. Ibid.
18. The Future of Health Care in Suffolk, Louise Obici Memorial Hospital, 1979, 6.
19. Lottick, 188.
20. Ibid.
21. Bernardi, 31.
22. LoCascio, 6.
23. Ibid., 5.
24. Maguire, Carole Contois, Suffolk Journal, Volume I, Suffolk, VA: author, 1986, 82-83.
25. Lottick, 188.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid., 189.
29. Ibid., 190.
30. Ibid.
31. Bernardi, 33.
32. Suffolk Fiduciary Settlement and Will Book, No. 16.
33. Lottick, 191.
34. Nansemond County Deed Records, Book 106, 238-239.



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- 35. Maguire, Carole Contois, Suffolk Journal, Volume II, Suffolk, VA: author, 1988, 52.
- 36. Cutchins, 9-10.
- 37. Bernardi, 35.
- 38. Cutchins, 5.
- 39. Virginian-Pilot, March 22, 1947.
- 40. The Future of Health Care in Suffolk.
- 41. Nansemond County Deed Records, Book 164, 525.
- 42. Nansemond County Oyster Plat, Book 2, 187.
- 43. Nansemond County Deed Records, Book 164, 150.
- 44. Nansemond County Deed Records, Book 183, 34.
- 45. Nansemond County Deed Records, Book 269, 286, and Book 294, 96.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Nansemond County Will Books

Pettit, J. R. "Bay Point Farm; property of Pern Cowling Harman Jr., Sleepy Hole Dist. Nansemond, Co., VA." December 1952

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Virginian-Pilot, March 22, 1947.

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**10. Geographical Data**

**UTM References, con't**

5	<u>18</u>	<u>364780</u>	<u>4078360</u>
6	<u>18</u>	<u>364710</u>	<u>4078350</u>
7	<u>18</u>	<u>364620</u>	<u>4078380</u>

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of said plat 11, parcel 20 are included on the attached map. The boundary is marked by the Nansemond River to the north and west, tidal flats of the Nansemond River to the east, the south side of the south driveway to the garage and south of said garage.

**Boundary Justification**

Though Bay Point Farm originally encompassed 263-acres, parcels have been sold and changed, and no longer contribute to the significance of the dwelling. The grounds were converted into a golf course and the landforms and roadways have changed. The set boundaries best represent the period of significance and retain the integrity of the site.

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**Photograph List**

**Key:**

1. Name of property
2. County/City and State
3. Name of photographer
4. Date of photograph
5. Location of original negative
6. Description of view
7. Photograph number

**Photographs:**

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of entrance gates on west side of property, looking east
7. Photograph number 1

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of circular drive, garage, house and concessions stand, looking east
7. Photograph number 2

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

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6. View of agricultural outbuildings, southwest obliques
7. Photograph number 3

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of house and garage, northeast obliques
7. Photograph number 4

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of garage, northeast oblique
7. Photograph number 5

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of house, east facade
7. Photograph number 6

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of house, northwest oblique
7. Photograph number 7

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia

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**Section Photographs Page 18**

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3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of house, entrance porch detail, east facade
7. Photograph number 8

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of dining room, looking northwest
7. Photograph number 9

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of living room, from foyer, looking northwest
7. Photograph number 10

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of main stairwell, looking northwest
7. Photograph number 11

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of main stairwell, looking northwest
7. Photograph number 12

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1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of second story bedroom, looking west
7. Photograph number 13

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of second story landing, looking southeast
7. Photograph number 14

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of second story lavatory, looking west
7. Photograph number 15

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of second story hallway, looking north
7. Photograph number 16

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002



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5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of screened porch, looking south
7. Photograph number 17

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of dining room, looking northwest
7. Photograph number 18

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of living room, looking northwest
7. Photograph number 19

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of foyer from living room, looking southeast
7. Photograph number 20

1. Bay Point Farm
2. Suffolk, Virginia
3. Kimble A. David
4. December 2002
5. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia
6. View of view of main stairwell, looking northeast
7. Photograph number 21